

WILSON TO ASK CABINET TO AID IN RAIL CRISIS

President and Advisers to Meet
This Afternoon to Discuss
Threatened Tie-up.

PERIL TO NATION IS SEEN

Administration Officials Fear
Grave Results From Possible
Food Shortage.

President Wilson will lay before
the Cabinet this afternoon the serious
domestic crisis confronting the country
as a result of the threatened nation-
wide railroad strike.

Officials are strongly hopeful that
following this meeting the President
will take drastic action to force the
railroad brotherhoods to submit the
controversy to arbitration.

The President is known to resent
strongly the action of the brother-
hood leaders in calling the strike
prior to a decision by the Supreme
Court on the Adamson eight-hour law,
and at a time when the international
relations of the country are gravely
involved.

Vigorous Arrangement Likely.

It would not be surprising, some
of the President's advisers declare, if he
should come out with a vigorous state-
ment, calling for arbitration of differ-
ences and branding as traitorous
those on either side who might resist
such a step for a peaceful adjustment
of the issue between the roads and
their employees.

Nor, it is indicated by these ad-
visers, would it be surprising if the
President served plain warning upon
the brotherhoods that he will not per-
mit interruption of interstate food
traffic and mails of the country, and
that he will call out the militia to
operate the trains.

While these possibilities are seri-
ously suggested in Administration
quarters, it is frankly admitted the
President has given no definite indica-
tion of his course of action.

Gets Full Information.

Despite the urgent advice of his
physician not to undertake the trans-
action of official business until his
strength is thoroughly recovered, the
President, after receiving today full
reports on sessions of the brotherhood
leaders and the railroad managers in
New York, instructed Secretary Tamm
to notify the Cabinet of his wish
to meet with that body at 2:30
o'clock this afternoon.

In the meantime all kinds of sen-
sational rumors were beginning to cir-
culate through Washington, the most
striking of which was to the effect
that the War Department, acting under
instructions from the President, had al-
ready notified the Governors of the
various States to hold militia organiza-
tions in readiness for immediate ser-
vice in connection with the strike. This
was flatly denied at the War Depart-
ment.

The Senate Committee on Interstate
Commerce which had charge of the rail-
road strike legislation that failed of
passage in the last session, met this
morning but did nothing. Like the
governmental departments concerned
with such matters—such as the De-
partment of Labor and the Board of
Mediation and Conciliation—the Com-
mittee seemed to think it was up to
the President to take the initiative, and
indicate what he himself intends to do
or what he wants his subordinates or Con-
gress to do.

Newlands Investigated Problems.

Senator Newlands, chairman of the
committee, happens also to be chair-
man of the joint special committee of
Congress authorized last fall to inves-
tigate transportation problems.

While the joint committee was
created entirely apart from the is-
sues involved in the eight-hour con-
troversy, Senator Newlands believes it
has full power, of its own motion,
to undertake an inquiry into the con-
troversy with all facilities for sum-
moning witnesses and examining
them under oath. The joint commit-
tee will resume its sessions here next
Monday.

In the meantime, however, Senator
Newlands, with other officials and
members of Congress in Washington,
feel that the crisis is too imminent
to admit of slow and deliberate hand-
ling.

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

MORAN WAREHOUSE BURNS

Stock of Hay and Straw Wiped Out
By Flames.

Fire early today destroyed more than
\$50,000 worth of hay and straw in the
warehouse of P. T. Moran, feed dealer,
at 1055 Potomac street, Georgetown. Mr.
Moran is president of the Chamber of
Commerce.

The fire was discovered shortly before
midnight by George Harper, who ran to
the quarters of Engine Company No. 5,
near Wisconsin avenue and M street
northwest.

As soon as the engine company reached
the scene the captain sounded an al-
arm. The firemen fought the blaze
until nearly 5 o'clock this morning, and
shortly after 7 o'clock two companies
were called back to the scene to keep
the smoldering hay from igniting
again.

Spontaneous combustion is believed to
have started the fire. The damage to
the building, which was brick, will not
be more than \$200, the fire marshal es-
timated. The stock of hay and straw
was almost a complete loss.

Firemen were called to the home of
Anna E. Byrd, 2216 Cleveland avenue
northwest, shortly after midnight to ex-
tinguish a small blaze caused by a lace
curtain set afire by a gas jet.

THRONES WHICH WAR HAS OVERTURNED

KING ALBERT OF THE BEL-
GIANS, who has been virtually
"out of a job" since the German
occupation.

KING PETER OF SERBIA, who
was obliged to flee before invad-
ing Austrians.

KING NICHOLAS OF MONTE-
NEGRO, a refugee in Paris.

KING FERDINAND OF ROU-
MANIA, who has fled to Bessarab-
ia.

KING CONSTANTINE OF
GREECE, who is practically a
prisoner, a king in name only, al-
though still "on the pay roll."

CZAR NICHOLAS OF RUSSIA,
who has abdicated in his son's
favor at the demand of a pro-ally
people.

GARDENS BEGUN BY CIVIC BODIES

Noel House and Takoma Park
Citizens Enter The Times
Competition.

Washington, D. C.
3-14-17

Garden Editor, The Times:

Sir—Please consider me a con-
testant in your best garden con-
test.

I think The Times' offer of a
prize for the best garden will
bring a great reward to many
people as well as a deserved
honor to The Times for this ef-
fort in interesting many people
to produce something rather than
to idle their time away. Yours
truly,
R. REICHARD,
1523 25th street southeast.

Two large community organiza-
tions today joined The Times city
gardening movement.

The Noel House Settlement Asso-
ciation, the largest settlement house
in Washington, and the Takoma Park
Citizens' Association have begun
work on their gardening, and today
notified The Times of their plans for
the summer and entrance in garden
contest.

Already more than an acre of ground
has been prepared at the Noel House
Settlement. This ground will be di-
vided up among the residents of the
community who wish to take part in
The Times contest this summer. The
association also offers prizes for the
best garden, the most productive gar-
den, and the prettiest flower garden.

Work to Be Practical.

It is not the intention of the man-
agement to divide the ground into
plots too small to make the work pro-
ductive for those cultivating the gar-
dens. If more people apply for
ground than there are already pre-
pared, more land will be plowed and
put in condition for planting. The
Girl Scouts already have asked for
plots. It is also expected that the
Boy Scouts will ask for admission to
the contest.

As such as possible the land will be
reserved for the mothers and hus-
bands in the community.

The movement is being conducted
to reduce the high cost of food and
those who do not have sufficient
ground in their back yards to raise
a garden will be welcomed in the
community garden.

Prizes will also be offered for the
best backyard garden, and everybody
is invited to enter.

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

GOOD NEWS FOR IRELAND

Will Embrace Ulster, Munster,
Leinster, and Connaught.

NEW YORK, March 16.—Many if
not all of the clans of Ireland are
named in the will, filed yesterday in
which Bridget Conway, who died Feb-
ruary 25, called the roll of her bene-
ficiaries and next of kin. Her estate
is given as \$20,000 in real and \$1,200
in personal property, and among
those who are in line to receive some
of it are members of the following
great divisions of the Celtic race:
The McInerneys of Clare, the
Tuohys, Mahers, Curtins, Boyles, Nel-
sons, Corbets, Conways, O'Keefes, Mal-
loneys, Naddys, Lenihans, and Man-
nixes.

APPEALS TO IRISH

Bonar Law Says General Elections
Would Check War Activity.

LONDON, March 16.—If the Irish
party members continue their opposi-
tion to the Lloyd George government,
a general election will be forced and
England's activity in the war will be
paralyzed, Chancellor of the Exche-
quer Bonar Law said in the House
of Commons today.

He appealed eloquently to all Irish
members to join in negotiations de-
signed to effect a settlement of the
Irish question.

AZORES CUT OFF.

BUENOS AIRES, March 16.—Cable
communication to London through
the Azores was suddenly cut off early
today. Officials thought it might be
due to an earthquake, but it was be-
lieved here the line had been cut by
a German raider.

DEMOCRACY IN CONTROL, RUSS HUNT TRAITORS

Nationwide Round-up on of Pro-
German Conspirators
Among Nobles.

CZAR AND CZARINA SAFE

Old Regime Chiefs Imprisoned,
However, and Many Execut-
ed by People.

PETROGRAD, March 16.—Democ-
racy controls Russia.

Czar Nicholas has abdicated.
The Grand Duke Michael Alexandro-
vich will act as regent until the
Czarevitch comes of age.

Pro-German nobles of the old
regime have been captured, and a
new ministry of the people has been
appointed.

The Czar is at Pakoff and the Czari-
na is at the imperial palace at
Tsarskoe-Selo, according to the latest
information received here. The Czari-
na was said to be in perfect safety,
contradicting early rumors that she
had been detained by the revolution-
ists.

Fifteen assemblies of the Russian
nobility met today and adopted resolu-
tions declaring their participation
in the popular revolution.

The revolution vigorously assailed
those officials of the old government
responsible for the crisis which re-
sulted in the overthrow of the Czar.
Great Hunt For Spies.

The greatest hunt for traitors and
spies in history is on today. The
populace and the army joined in this
systematic hunt for pro-German in-
triguers. It was their brazen activi-
ties that were the prime cause of the
downfall of the Czar and his abso-
lutist government. Not even the
highest nobles were exempt from this
spy hunt.

General Sukhomlinoff, former minis-
ter of war, was one of those arrested.
He went to join a notable company
of those whose words were law in
other days.

Minister of Justice Keensky, of the
new provisional government, today de-
cided upon a general amnesty to all
political offenders.

The populace and the fully sym-
pathetic troops of the city have brook-
ed no opposition to their control.
Baron Stokelberg fired on a group
of soldiers from his window.

The baron was promptly arrested. He
was dragged out, but later the
doctors decided to take him to Roan-
oke.

Emperor's Aide Jailed.

Count Fredericks, the aged minister
of the imperial household, and aide-
de-camp to the Emperor, was discov-
ered in hiding. His life was spared,
but he was sent to prison to join other
notables of the other regime.
Meanwhile his house had been com-
pletely wrecked.

Countess Klein Michael, long sus-
pected as a German spy, was discov-
ered in hiding at the Chinese legation.
Soldiers promptly took her in cus-
tod.

No more dramatic incident occurred
in the last few days than that of the
arrest of the former minister.

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

DENIES FIGHT WITH SAILORS

No Battle With Germans, Says
Philadelphia Officials.

PHILADELPHIA, March 16.—Rumors
today to the effect that a
"sanguinary" battle took place be-
tween marines at the Philadelphia
navy yard, and the German sailors
aboard the interned vessels here were
denied by Major Logan Feland, in com-
mand of the marines in the absence
of Colonel Long.

"It's all a fairy story," he said.

The original tale declared the "six-
teen-hour-a-day" duty order issued
for local police was to prepare for the
battle. It was declared the order
anticipated the threatened railroad
strike.

\$200,000,000 FOR ROUMANIA

Great Britain Agrees to Loan to
Ally at 5 Per Cent.

LONDON, March 16.—Great Britain
has agreed to loan Roumania \$200,-
000,000, according to an official state-
ment issued at Jassy, the temporary
Roumanian capital, and forwarded by
the Reuter correspondent.

The loan will be at 5 per cent in-
terest.

TO EXTEND CIVIL SERVICE

President to Include First, Second,
and Third Class Postmasters.

Senate leaders were advised this
afternoon that the White House in a
short time would issue an order plac-
ing all postmasters of the first, sec-
ond and third classes under the civil
service. This information confirms
reports which have been in circula-
tion in Washington for some days.

Senators are advised that the Presi-
dent has fully decided to issue the
order. It is expected to come at any
time.

HALT NEW ENGLAND FREIGHT

BOSTON, March 16.—The Boston
and Albany railroad today sent out
an order declining to accept freight
of any nature whatsoever, to take
effect at once. Word to this effect
has been sent out to all its agents
and all its connecting railroads.

PROF. VAWTER CONFESSES HE KILLED HETH

Commonwealth Attorney, How-
ever, Refuses to Make Pub-
lic Circumstances.

CADET TELLS OF SHOOTING

Describes How Young Virginian
Stopped Over for Night at
Instructor's Home.

By B. M. MCKELWAY.

ROANOKE, Va., March 16.—Prof.
Charles E. Vawter, of Virginia Poly-
technic Institute at Blacksburg, today
admitted he shot Stockton Heth, Jr.,
a visitor in his home, Monday night.

Vawter confessed to Commonwealth
Attorney R. I. Roop, of Montgomery
county.

Mr. Roop, in a statement this
afternoon, said that, although Prof.
Vawter admitted his guilt, he would
under no conditions make public the
circumstances leading up to the sen-
sational affair.

According to an account given today,
Heth was in Blacksburg Monday visit-
ing friends. Instead of returning to
his home at Whitehorn, three miles
from Blacksburg, that evening, Heth
stopped at the Vawters' residence at
10 o'clock and was invited to remain
for the night by Prof. Vawter. Prof.
and Mrs. Vawter sat with their guest
downstairs until midnight, when all
three retired. Prof. Vawter, it is
stated, occupied a room with Mrs.
Vawter, just across the hall from a
room in which Mr. Heth was sleeping.

Armed by Shots.

At 3 o'clock Bernard Williams, a
cadet boarding at the home of the
Vawters, was aroused by three shots.
In quick succession. He came from
his room and found Heth, clad only in
pajamas, lying face down in the hall.

Just what happened between this
time and half an hour later, when Dr.
William R. Henderson, the college
physician, was notified, cannot be
learned. All those connected with the
affair either directly or indirectly
seem sworn to secrecy.

When Dr. Henderson, with another
physician, arrived on the scene, Prof.
Vawter handed one of these a brand
new revolver of the hammerless type
with two loaded shells remaining in
the cylinders. He then assisted in
taking the body of Heth to the col-
lege infirmary. Here it was placed
under the care of the medical staff.
The doctors decided to take him to Roan-
oke.

Heth died here yesterday morning
at the Jefferson Hospital after mak-
ing a death-bed statement to his
brother, Lieut. Clement Heth, U. S. A.,
charging Vawter with the shooting.

To Apply For Bond.

BLACKSBURG, Va., March 16.—
Prof. Vawter, accompanied by a few
friends, for the second time this week
boarded an early morning train for
Charlottesville, eight miles distant,
where he is expected to waive pre-
liminary hearing before Judge C. M.
Pierce and apply for bond in answer
to a warrant issued after the death
of Heth.

Prof. Vawter showed the effects of
the strain under which he has been
for the last week. Under his eyes
were deep circles, and his customary
friendly greetings to his friends
were absent.

Mrs. Vawter with her two little
children, at her home in Blacksburg,
he shut off from all but the closest
family friends. She has not been seen
in public since the affair Tuesday
morning.

Lieut. Clement Heth, brother of the
dead man, with his wife and sister,
Miss Pickett and Virginia Heth, ar-
rived here yesterday evening. They
were taken straight to the estate at
Whitehorn.

The body of Stockton Heth will ar-
rive in Blacksburg tomorrow. No
funeral arrangements have yet been
announced.

Capt. Stockton Heth,
father of the slain man, will arrive
in Blacksburg tomorrow from Cali-
fornia.

MARKET NOT AFFECTED

Wholesalers Believe Nearby Sup-
plies Will Carry Washington.

Despite the threatened railroad
strike, the local wholesale market
showed practically no increases in
prices today.

Potatoes dropped to \$5.50 a barrel
from yesterday's price of \$6. Live
calves went up from 12 to 12½ cents
a pound yesterday to 13 cents today.

Local buyers said that the effect
of the strike could be better told to-
morrow. Several consignments of
food are expected, which will add to
the supplies on hand and keep the
market fairly stable for several days
at least.

Nearby farmers have been bringing
large supplies of potatoes and some
fruits from storage recently, and with
a continuance of good weather do so.
Large supplies of nearby potatoes are
believed by wholesale dealers to be
available in case of necessity.

When the potato market was at its
height several days ago, farmers
brought quantities of the tubers here.
This forced the price down, it is
stated. Several dealers said that they
have small supplies of potatoes and
other non-perishable staples on hand.
It is believed these supplies will save
off exorbitant prices for some time.

OHIO TIE-UP IN EFFECT.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, March 16.—
Effective today the Erie railroad em-
bargoed all freight shipments. Similar
orders were issued by the Baltimore
and Ohio to go into effect at midnight.

COMMISSIONERS' LETTER TO W. R. & E. DIRECTORS

Following is the text of the Commissioners' letter:

"The Board of Directors of the

"Washington Railway and Electric Company.

"Washington, D. C.

"Gentlemen:

"The Commissioners of the District of Columbia desire to
present certain facts to the Board of Directors of the Wash-
ington Railway and Electric Company and, based on those
facts, to make a request.

"On March 1, 1916, the motormen and conductors of the
two street railway companies operating in the District of Co-
lumbia went on a strike. The Commissioners offered their
services as mediators, both to the companies and to the em-
ployees. Their good offices were accepted, and as a result of that
mediation, agreements were entered into between the two
street railway companies and committees representing their
employees.

"The Washington Railway and
Electric Company signed an agreement
with a committee represent-
ing its employees, which com-
mittee was chosen by a meeting
of employees called by and pre-
sided over by the Commissioners. Under
that agreement a grievance com-
mittee of employees was constituted,
and provision was made for an ap-
peal of all questions that could not
be settled by conference to the
Public Utilities Commission of the
District of Columbia, constituting
a board of arbitration.

"This agreement became effective
March 11, 1916, and was termi-
nated by its own limitations one
year later.

"During the year numerous cases
were appealed to the Public Utili-
ties Commission, and were settled
by it. During all of that time not
one complaint came to the atten-
tion of the Commissioners as to the
working of the agreement, from
either the company, or the em-
ployees, and so far as we were ad-
vised it was satisfactory.

"Late in February, 1917, when the
life of the agreement was approach-
ing its end, employees of the Wash-
ington Railway and Electric Com-
pany, constituting a committee of
Local 693, Amalgamated Association
of Street and Electric Railway Em-
ployees, presented certain demands
for a working agreement, which they
proposed should be made between
the company and the Amalgamated
Association. On February 27, a re-
ply to these demands was made by
the president of the Washington
Railway and Electric Company.

"The company, in its reply, which
was respectfully but most earnestly
replied to by the committee, which
presented the demands, which was
a union committee, but to the em-
ployees, and the committee under the
old agreement, a copy of this letter
was sent by the president of your
company to the Commissioners of the
District of Columbia.

"In this reply the president of the
company said:

"The existing agreement between
this company and its trainmen,
which you signed, as you are aware,
does not expire until March 11, 1917,
and was entered into through the
mediation of the Board of Commis-
sioners of the District of Columbia,
who, at the sacrifice of much time
and convenience, lent their efforts
to the consummation of the agree-
ment. A copy of this letter was
sent by the president of your com-
pany to the Commissioners of the
District of Columbia.

"The interests of the public
transcend the interests of either
party to this controversy so far as
the controversy itself is concerned.
Representing the public, we
make this request in the confident
belief that it will be complied with.

"Board of Commissioners of the
District of Columbia.

"By OLIVER P. NEWMAN,
President."

"Late on the evening of March
11 a reply was received from the
President of the Washington Rail-
way and Electric Company declin-
ing to comply with this request.

"The company, its officers and
employees, are even now called upon
to meet the unusual traffic condi-
tions that arise from the influx of
people who wish to attend the in-
augural ceremonies, and we there-
fore trust that those of our employ-
ees who are not only loyal to the
company but to the city and coun-
try, in contributing their share for
a successful inauguration. When
they shall have discharged this duty,
which is of our own to the Presi-
dent and the nation, we will have
ample time to calmly consider the
situation, and shall be pleased to
take up any matter pertaining to
the interests of our employees, as we
have always been willing to do."

"You will note that in this letter
the president of the company stated
that the proper adjustment of the
question involved would require the
entire time of a mediatorial board.

"As a result of this letter, all
negotiations were postponed until
after the inauguration.

"Immediately after the inaugura-
tion it became evident that the com-
pany was bringing in strike
breakers.

"On March 9, 1917, the Commis-
sioners sent the following letter:

"Mr. Clarence P. King, President
Washington Railway and Elec-
tric Company, Washington, D. C.:

"Dear Sir:

"In view of the approaching termi-
nation of the agreement of March 11,
1916, between the Washington Rail-
way and Electric Company and its
employees, and because of their de-
sire that the public interest be con-
served, the Commissioners of the Dis-
trict of Columbia respectfully re-
quest a conference with the officers
of your Company, at ten thirty, a. m.,
Saturday, March tenth.

"The Commissioners are anxious
to render whatever assistance may be
possible, to the end that effective
street car service be maintained."

"In response to that letter Mr. King,
Mr. Ham,